

CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Crater Planning District Commission
Technical Assistance Grant Final Report

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Grant Year 2019

Task 42

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

629 East Main Street

Richmond, Virginia 23218

Prepared By:

Crater Planning District Commission

Monument Professional Building

1964 Wakefield Street

Post Office Box 1808

Petersburg, Virginia 23805

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Crater PDC Staff – Alec Brebner, Jay Ruffa, Erin Musselwhite, and Judith Smith

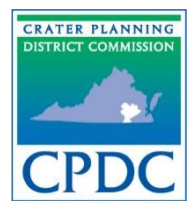
Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program – Laura McKay, Jeff Flood , Shep Moon, Virginia Witmer, April Bahen, and Nick Meade

Cover: Photograph taken by John A. Rooney Jr. Used as part of the Department of Conservation and Recreation Scenic Rivers Program "Scenic Rivers 50th anniversary Gallery"¹.

19.2 miles of the Appomattox River received Scenic River Designation by the General assembly originally in 1977 with the newest extension added in 2011. Paddlers are traveling downriver through a section that separates Petersburg Virginia on the right and Virginia State University, Chesterfield Virginia, on the left. The cement towers in the background are what remains of an old rail trestle. These pillars are in plans to use and construct a bike/pedestrian bridge to cross the Appomattox River as the southernmost portion of the Fall Line Trail connecting it to the Appomattox Regional Trail in Petersburg. The river provides spectacular views of the many water features, historic sites, and beautiful treelined riverside, highlighting the very things FOLAR seeks to preserve.



Virginia Coastal Zone
M A N A G E M E N T P R O G R A M



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¹ Source Reference: (DCR, 2020)

Crater Planning District Commission, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Technical Assistance Grant FY 19, Task 45 Final Report

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Executive Summary

Environmental Impact Reviews

Crater PDC staff reviewed 41 Environmental Impact Reports during the past year. The projects were varied and included solar sights, high speed rail, wastewater treatment facilities, airport apron rehabilitation, university facilities, power generation, natural gas, and state and federal grant funding applications. In addition, environmental CZM and Chesapeake Bay funding programs were reviewed per the request of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Report on Coastal Meetings and Trainings

Six(6) coastal meetings were held during the past grant year (2019-2020): November 13, 2019, December 12, 2019, February 26, 2020, April 15, 2020, June 16, 2020, and September 16, 2020. In addition to local government and Crater PDC staff, representatives from the following entities attended at least once: Fort Lee, The Cameron Foundation, The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Virginia Department of Transportation, The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR).

The Crater PDC sponsored several training sessions on the following topics:

- 1) Virginia Outdoors Plan Department of Conservation and Recreation,
- 2) Coastal Needs Assessment, VCZM 309, Department of Environmental Quality,
- 3) Updates on Waters of the U.S Rule, Department of Environmental Quality,
- 4) Collective Impact and Equitable Collaboration, University of Virginia Institute for Engagement & Negotiation,
- 5) Changes in Virginias Environmental Legislation, Wetlands Watch.

FOLAR (Friends of the Lower Appomattox River)

Crater PDC staff assisted FOLAR with: 1) GIS mapping updating trail master plan map to reflect progress of completion of trail work, 2) coordination and planning of the 2nd annual State of the Trail Meeting and Training, 3) technical support in SMART scale application for three different bridge and trail sections for possible funding and construction, and 4) attending participating in FOLAR board meetings.

Benefits Accrued from Prior CZM Grants

A culmination of benefits accrued this grant cycle from previous work with CZM Grants. The Lower Appomattox River has a Scenic River Designation which has been updated to an new Appomattox River Interpretive Guide. The Trail Master Plan has been utilized and updated to its current form which has led to work in 2019 developing a first draft of the Lower Appomattox Blueway Plan. Completion of the first stage of the Riverwalk leading into start of construction of Riverwalk phase 2. Holding the 2nd annual State of the Trail meeting which became an all-day event with regional coordination and training efforts.

Environmental Impact Reviews

Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC) staff provided continuing support to eleven local governments (7 counties and 4 cities) located in the south central region of Virginia as well as Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), and Petersburg Area Regional Tourism (PART). The Crater PDC staff provided assistance to its coastal communities with environmental impact reviews of local, state, and federal projects. The objective of these reviews is to ensure that the goals of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program are adequately and fully considered and that the Crater Region provides a coordinated response.

During the 2019 Virginia CZM Program Grant year forty-one environmental impact reviews were formally undertaken. The projects were varied and included solar sights, high speed rail, wastewater treatment facilities, airport apron rehabilitation, university facilities, power generation, natural gas, and state and federal grant funding applications. In addition, environmental CZM and Chesapeake Bay funding programs were reviewed per the request of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

A sample listing of coastal and coastal-related environmental impact reviews that assisted localities and partner entities of local, state and federal projects follows:

- SCC Cavalier Solar A, LLC (DEQ #20-141S)
- Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG IV)
- ACOE Revision and Reissuance of Nationwide Permits (20-143F)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – Performance Partnership Grant Year 4 (21-03) to U.S. EPA
- Project #20 -098F- DC to Richmond South East High Speed Rail – FRA
- William & Mary Construction of the Center for Innovation and Education at Richard Bland College (DEQ # 20-0825)
- Town of McKenney, Virginia Waste Water Treatment Plant Permit Reissuance (VA 0060402)
- Brownfields Small Community Grant – AM1 (20-28)
- Atlantic Wood Sitewide – AM3 (20-30)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – DE RA Project – AM1 (20-29)
- Prince George County Draft Wastewater Permit Request (VA-0093068)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – 2020 – Wetlands Program (20-48)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – Water Quality Management Planning 604(b) – Amendment 1 (20-49)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – 2020 State Clean Water Revolving Fund Capitalization Grant (20-45)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – Coastal Zone Management Program Grants (20-46)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – 2020 Water Use Data and Research Program (20-47)
- FERC Columbia Gas TCO Nisource (DEQ # 20-071F) in Chesterfield County, VA.
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Application for PASI – AM5 (20-26)

- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Grant Program (20-21)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program (20-18)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality – Defense States MOA Program (20-17)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Exchange Network Grant – Water Quality Monitoring Mobile Application (20-16)
- ACOE Public Improvements at the James River Conservation Area in Chesterfield County VA. (20-038F)
- Groundwater Withdrawal Permit for the Wayside Community Water System in Charles City County, VA.
- Environmental Permit for Iluka Resources Inc. in Greensville County
- SCC Chesterfield – Tyler 230 KV Transmission Line #205 and #2003 (20-195)
- Richmond Executive – Chesterfield County Airport Terminal Apron Rehab in Chesterfield County (20-039F)
- DGS Preplacement of Central State Hospital (20-033S)
- Leachate Lagoons – Atlantic Waste Disposal in Sussex County
- Washington Park Community VI ER review in Greensville County
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Performance Partnership Grant – Amendment 3 (20-14)
- NRC License Renewal for the Surry Power Station Units 1 and 2 (19-131S)
- SCC US-4 Solar Project (Sadler Solar Facility) (19-090S)
- Permit for Poole's Mobile Home Park Water System Surry County, VA.
- Bailey Bridge Connector Project, Virginia Department of Transportation #0000-020-820, UPC 111713
- Reissuance of Land Application Permit to Recyc Systems , Inc. in Prince George County, VA.
- Groundwater Withdrawal Special Exception for Chickahominy Power LLC operation (a natural gas fueled electric power generation plant) located in Charles City County, VA.
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality -Coastal Zone Management Application for Projects of Special Merit
- Reissuance of Permit for private Harbor East Village Waste Water Treatment Plant located in Chesterfield County, VA.
- Reissuance for VPDES Permit for the Atlantic Waste Disposal facility located in Sussex County, VA.
- SCC VNG Header Improvement Project for Virginia Natural Gas, Inc. in Charles City County, VA. (20-001S)

Sample Review Letter attached. ([Appendix 1](#))

Report on Coastal Meetings & Training

Crater PDC staff coordinated six(6) meetings of the Environmental Resources Management Task Force. In addition to local government and Crater PDC staff, representatives from the following entities attended at least once: Fort Lee, The Cameron Foundation, The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Virginia Department of Transportation, The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), and Wetlands Watch to coordinate planning efforts and to provide training to local officials and staff. During each of the quarterly meetings time was set aside for training sessions. The Crater PDC sponsored several training sessions on the following topics: 1) Virginia Outdoors Plan Department of Conservation and Recreation, 2) Coastal Needs Assessment, VCZM 309, Department of Environmental Quality, 3) Updates on Waters of the U.S Rule, Department of Environmental Quality, 4) Collective Impact and Equitable Collaboration, University of Virginia Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, 5) Changes in Virginias Environmental Legislation, Wetlands Watch.

Virginia Outdoors Plan

The first local meeting and training held on Wednesday November 13, 2019 was conducted by William Conkle from Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation(DCR) on the Virginia Outdoors Plan². The Virginia Outdoors Plan is the state's comprehensive plan for land conservation, outdoor recreation and open-space planning, The plan is required for Virginia to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund³ program and also provides guidance for the protection of lands through the Virginia Land Conservation Fund⁴.

The training started by recognizing Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation (a Crater PDC member) for receiving the 2019 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, Implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan "GOLD" ([Appendix 3](#)).

After the recognition, training commenced by starting with a review of the 2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan. Followed by an overview of Conserve Virginia⁵. Land conservation investments are essential to making the commonwealth a wonderful place to live and visit. Land and water conservation protects the places Virginians love, supports a high quality of life, and fosters economic growth and prosperity. Conserve Virginia is a tool providing a map of Virginia's highest conservation value lands, based on 19 mapped data inputs. To create Conserve Virginia, the commonwealth's highest value lands for conservation were identified by utilizing data from multiple sources including federal and state agencies, land trusts, non-profits and others.

² Source Reference: (DCR, 2019)

³ Source Reference: (DCR, 2020)

⁴ Source Reference: (DCR, 2020)

⁵ Source Reference: (DCR, 2020)

The Conserve Virginia map includes more than 6 million acres of lands representing top priority conservation values in the following categories:

- 1) Agriculture and Forestry
- 2) Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity
- 3) Floodplains and Flooding Resilience
- 4) Cultural and Historic Preservation
- 5) Scenic Preservation
- 6) Protected Landscapes Resilience
- 7) Water Quality Improvement

Outdoor recreation, including access for underserved communities, is a critical component. Outdoor recreation generates \$13.6 billion in consumer spending and \$923 million in state and local tax revenues in Virginia. Identifying land conservation opportunities to expand upon recreational opportunities, on land and water, is a key consideration for conservation efforts across all Conserve Virginia categories. The Virginia Conservation Vision Recreation Model is used to assess public access values of land conservation projects, to place emphasis on providing outdoor recreation opportunities in areas where there is currently greatest need.

Training then went into DCR Trail Programs and State Parks within the region. Along with updates to the master plan, including an update to the Virginia Outdoors Plan Mapper. The mapper enables users to view recreation information on a series of interactive maps. (Visit Website: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational-planning/vopmapper>)

The last part of the training allowed for localities in attendance to provide comment and feedback on featured projects in the region. Answering:

- What is the status of your region's featured projects?
- What are the unmet needs in your region for outdoor recreation and conservation?
- What recreation trends are happening in the region?

Meeting agenda attached. ([Appendix 2](#))

Coastal Needs Assessment

Coastal Needs Assessment, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCZM)309, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

On Thursday, December 12, 2019, Shep Moon, Virginia DEQ, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, lead a Stakeholder engagement and training on the 5-year Coastal Needs Assessment & Development Strategy. Section 309 of the VCZM Coastal Needs Assessment requires a needs assessment every five(5) years to include strategies to develop new enforceable policies. This training included localities of Crater PDC in and give them a say in where funding goes for the next round.

The training explained the enhancement areas:

- Wetlands
- Coastal Hazards
- Public Access
- Marine Debris
- Special Area Management Plans
- Cumulative & Secondary Impacts of Growth & Development
- Ocean Resources
- Energy & Government Facility Siting
- Aquaculture

The current Section 309 Strategy (2016-2020) focused on three of the enhancement areas: 1) Coastal Hazards, 2) Cumulative & secondary Impacts of Growth & Development, and Ocean Resources. With strategy projects to include; resiliency planning, community rating system analysis and training, impacts on road flooding analysis, resiliency project database, shoreline planning and policy guidance, beneficial use of dredged material study, living shoreline performance and contractor training, and Chesapeake Bay Act flooding guidance.

The training concluded with stakeholder input on which issues they felt were local priorities and actions recommended to include in the next VCZM 309 strategy.

Meeting agenda attached. ([Appendix 4](#))

Waters of the U.S Rule

*Waters of the U.S. Rule, Office of Wetland and Stream Protection, Virginia
Department of Environmental Quality*

Also on Thursday December 12, 2019 Brenda Winn, Virginia DEQ, Office of Wetland and Stream Protection, gave a training on updates to the Waters of the U.S Rule.

On October 22, 2019 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) repealed the 2015 Clean Water Rule. The repeal takes effect December 23, 2019. Estimated January 2020 the new Water of the United States(WOTUS) Rule to replace the former Clean Water Rule. When this new WOTUS Rule will take effect has yet to be published.

A summary of the changes can be seen in the image below.

| From EPA Clean Water Rule Fact Sheet | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------------|
| Subject | Old Rule (pre-2015) | Proposed Rule (2015) | Final Rule (2015) | Final Rule eff. 12/23/2019 |
| Navigable Waters | Jurisdictional | Same | Same | |
| Interstate Waters | Jurisdictional | Same | Same | |
| Territorial Seas | Jurisdictional | Same | Same | |
| Impoundments | Jurisdictional | Same | Same | |
| Tributaries to the Traditionally Navigable Waters | Did not define tributary | Defined tributary for the first time as water features with bed, banks and ordinary high water mark, and flow downstream. | Same as proposal except wetlands and open waters without beds, banks and high water marks will be evaluated for adjacency. | |
| Adjacent Wetlands/Waters | Included wetlands adjacent to traditional navigable waters, interstate waters, the territorial seas, impoundments or tributaries. | Included all waters adjacent to jurisdictional waters, including waters in riparian area or floodplain, or with surface or shallow subsurface connection to jurisdictional waters. | Includes waters adjacent to jurisdictional waters within a minimum of 100 feet and within the 100-year floodplain to a maximum of 1,500 feet of the ordinary high water mark. | |
| Isolated or "Other" Waters | Included all other waters the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce. | Included "other waters" where there was a significant nexus to traditionally navigable water, interstate water or territorial sea. | Includes specific waters that are similarly situated: Prairie potholes, Carolina & Delmarva bays, pocosins, western vernal pools in California, & Texas coastal prairie wetlands when they have a significant nexus. Includes waters with a significant nexus within the 100-year floodplain of a traditional navigable water, interstate water, or the territorial seas, as well as waters with a significant nexus within 4,000 feet of jurisdictional waters. | |
| Exclusions to the definition of "Waters of the U.S." | Excluded waste treatment systems and prior converted cropland. | Categorically excluded those in old rule and added two types of ditches, groundwater, gullies, rills and non-wetland swales. | Includes proposed rule exclusions, expands exclusion for ditches, and also excludes constructed components for MS4s and water delivery/reuse and erosional features. | |

Image 1- From EPA Clean Water Fact Sheet. Changes in definitions from Clean Water Rule to new Waters of the U.S. Rule.

Meeting agenda attached. ([Appendix 4](#))

Collective Impact on the Appomattox River

Collective Impact on the Appomattox River, coordinated by FOLAR (Friends of the Appomattox River) and the Crater PDC with help of facilitators led by Dr. Frank Dukes from University of Virginia [Institute for Engagement & Negotiation](#).

On February 25, 2020 the 2nd Annual State of the Trail meeting was held, called **COLLECTIVE IMPACT ON THE APPOMATTOX RIVER**. The purpose of the meeting was to: give a regional update and review of success and implementation of the Appomattox River Trail Master Plan, introduce a new series of regional forums titled *Collective Impact on the Appomattox River*, and conduct a workshop of small group discussions around the theme of Collective Impact and Equitable Collaboration, facilitated by the University of Virginia Institute for Engagement & Negotiation. Many organizations are working in isolation of one another. The

Appomattox River Trail being regional in nature is a way to collectively bring together organizations, in a structured way, to achieve social change(Collective Impact).

This was a regional meeting and workshop with representation from:

- Local Government - Counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George, Cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg
- Public Health - Crater Health District, Petersburg Healthy Options Partnership
- Military - Fort Lee
- Regional organizations - Crater Planning District Commission, Plan RVA, James River Soil & Water Conservation District, Regional Economic Development: Virginia's Gateway Region
- Foundations/Nonprofits -The John Randolph Foundation, The Cameron Foundation and Virginia Capital Trail Foundation
- Backbone Organization – FOLAR
- Facilitating - UVA Institute for Engagement and Negotiation
- Invited (unable to attend) - Virginia State University, National Park Service, Tri-Cities MPO, Appomattox River Soil & Water Conservation District, Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Department of Forestry, East Coast Greenway

The common agenda of this regional group is to ensure the Appomattox River Trail is built and maintained in a way that enhances the environment to positively impact public safety, health outcomes, and community prosperity for all. For the collective impact effort to work effectively a backbone and support infrastructure is needed to foster the cross-sector communication, alignment, and collaboration required to achieve identified goals and objectives. For this effort FOLAR is organized to be the backbone of the effort for the Tri-Cities Region to complete the Appomattox River Trail (ART).

During the second half of the meeting participants were divided into 4 groups and worked together in a coordinated discussion around the following four topics as they relate to the region and the Appomattox River Trail.

1. Sustainability, Maintenance, Educational Programing
2. Public Safety
3. Health & Recreation
4. Land Conservation / Environment

Participants worked to make connection to community wellness and prosperity of the Appomattox River Trail. The discussions around the topics listed above identified strengths; problems and causes; goals and strategies; and resources within each area. A summary of the flipchart notes can be found by following the [Collective Impact Summary – Workgroup Flip Chart Notes](#) link found in appendix 5. The notes are categorized under the Collective Impact framework measure of :

- Shared Measurements
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities
- Continuous Communication
- Strengthening Backbone Organization

This meeting was to be the first of four meeting/training events for the year centered around collective impact and the Appomattox River Trail. There was a planned regional field trip in April 2020, to be followed by a meeting in June 2020, and another in August 2020. But, given the current global pandemic of COVID 19, and the nature of these meeting being in person gatherings to facilitate organic conversations and dialog, last three events had to be cancelled. FOLAR and partners are working on a new plan on how to continue the Collective Impact work in the future. Nationwide, has seen an increase in trail and greenspace use during this crisis, so the work is timely, relevant and important to rebuilding the future.

Resource Documents and Attachment Links. ([Appendix 5](#))

Changes in Virginia's Environmental Legislation

Changes in Virginia's Environmental Legislation, Wetlands Watch

On September 16, 2020 Mary-Carson Stiff & Ross Weaver from Wetlands Watch lead a training on *Changing Legislation for Changing Shorelines*. The training highlighted a review of changes in the 2020 Virginia general assembly session, that will have an impact on environmental planning for the future.

A summary of changes are:

- Chief Resilience Officer position created ([HB#1313](#))

Chief Resilience Officer. *Directs the Governor to designate a Chief Resilience Officer to serve as the primary coordinator of resilience and adaptation initiatives in Virginia and as the primary point of contact regarding issues related to resilience and recurrent flooding. The bill directs the Chief Resilience Officer, in consultation with the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection, to identify and monitor areas at the greatest risk from recurrent flooding; review and comment on plans for the construction or substantial reinforcement of a substantial flood defense or catchment area, at the request of the locality containing such defense or area; and initiate and assist with the pursuit of funding for resilience initiatives.*⁶

- Department of Environmental Quality Mission to include "Address Climate Change" and include environmental justice ([HB#1164](#))

Department of Environmental Quality; policy statement. *Adds provisions for addressing climate change and for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, faith, disability, or income with respect to the administration of environmental laws, regulations, and policies in the statement of the Department of Environmental Quality's purpose.*⁷

⁶ Source Reference: (Virginia Legislation, 2020)

⁷ Source Reference: (Virginia Legislation, 2020)

- Amend the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act to include “Coastal Resilience and Adaptation” (**HB#504**)

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas; mature trees. Adds (i) the preservation of mature trees or planting of trees, both as a water quality protection tool and as a means of providing other natural resource benefits, and (ii) coastal resilience and adaptation to sea-level rise and climate change to the list of activities that the State Water Control Board is directed to encourage and promote as it adopts criteria for local governments to use as they consider development in Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas.⁸

- Updates to Virginia Marine Resource Commission, Wetlands Boards, Living Shorelines and Wetlands Guidelines (**SB#776**)

Wetlands protection; living shorelines. Requires the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to promulgate and periodically update minimum standards for the protection and conservation of wetlands and to approve only living shoreline approaches to shoreline stabilization unless the best available science shows that such approaches are not suitable.⁹

- VDOT integrates climate change into design standards.
 - In revised Chapter 33 of VDOT' Structure and Bridge Division identified the following four factors that may affect bridges over the next 100 years: 1)Temperature Change, 2) Salinity, 3) Precipitation or Rainfall intensity, and 4) Sea Level Rise (SLR)
- Community Flood Preparedness Fund created: funded through Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative(RGGI) (**HB#981**)

Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act; fund. Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to incorporate into regulations previously adopted by the State Air Pollution Control Board certain provisions establishing a carbon dioxide cap and trade program to reduce emissions released by electric generation facilities. Such provisions are required to comply with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative model rule. The bill authorizes the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality to establish, implement, and manage an auction program to sell allowances into a market-based trading program. The bill requires revenuesto be distributed without further appropriation (i) to the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund; (ii) to the Department of Housing and Community Development for low-income energy efficiency programs; (iii) for administrative expenses; and (iv) to the Department of Housing and Community Development in partnership with the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to administer and implement low-income energy

⁸ Source Reference: (Virginia Legislation, 2020)

⁹ Source Reference: (Virginia Legislation, 2020)

efficiency programs. The bill continues the Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund as the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund for the purpose of creating a low-interest loan program to help inland and coastal communities that are subject to recurrent or repetitive flooding.¹⁰

Meeting agenda attached. ([Appendix 6](#))

¹⁰ Source Reference: (Virginia Legislation, 2020)

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR)

The Crater Planning District Commission continued to provide staff support to “Friends of the Lower Appomattox River” (FOLAR) organization throughout the 2019 grant year. FOLAR is a regional nonprofit volunteer organization formed in 2000 with a mission to work in partnership with communities to conserve and protect the Appomattox River for all to enjoy. FOLAR’s strategy to achieve their mission includes:

- Development, maintaining and protecting the Appomattox River Regional Greenway/Blueway Corridor, a 20+ mile waterway and trail system that includes 7 boat access points, 10 miles of riverside trails and 11 riverside parks. Their priority focus is the build -out of the Appomattox River Trail (ART) as Guided by the Appomattox River Trail Master Plan.
- Devoting resources to protecting water quality and to land conservation; through organized regular regional river cleanups campaigns.
- Promoting economic growth and healthy lifestyles through tourism and recreation programs. Supporting programming to expand regional education and environmental stewardship and offering the FOLAR Environmental Stewardship Scholarship in partnership with the John Randolph Foundation.

To date, FOLAR has established several public trailheads, held more than 20 river clean-ups, and participated with other organizations that promote environmental awareness. The Crater PDC has provided technical assistance to FOLAR for several years and continued providing assistance through full time staff to include such items as participating in meeting facilitation, website maintenance (www.folar-va.org), participation in river clean-ups and other relevant events (i.e. Annual Paddle or Battle), map production, and assistance with establishing trails, trailheads, and trail signage.

Crater PDC’s executive director serves as an ex-officio non-voting member of the FOLAR Board is in attendance at all FOLAR board meetings. Crater PDC provides support to FOLAR through the use of office and storage space and general office equipment and supplies such as printers and mail service. Crater staff attended and helped with planning and coordination of training for the 2nd annual State of the Trail meeting (February 26, 2020) with regional stakeholders. This was considered to be a big success as a full day meeting and training event. The event was centered around an update on trail efforts and planning, followed by breakout and training sessions centered on the theme of “Collective Impact and Equitable Collaboration.” Staff will provide support to FOLAR to continue this effort for future annual meetings. Crater PDC has included FOLAR in regional discussions such as WIP development, VOP, and transportation planning for the region. Staff is working alongside FOLAR in a regional effort for Trail connections. Participating in the Ashland to Petersburg Trail Study in an effort to connect this newly proposed trail to The Appomattox River Trail. Also Crater wants to continue regional support in an ongoing effort to connect The Appomattox River Trail to the Capital Trail. CPDC provides letters of support to private foundations and state funders, as needed for grant applications so that FOLAR can continue work to secure funding for these efforts.

Along with Crater PDC's executive director who attends board meetings as a non-voting member. Crater PDC staff participated in and attended bi-monthly FOLA Board meetings, February 19, 2020 April 15, 2020, and August 19, 2020.

In addition to participating and attending meetings. Crater PDC staff worked closely with FOLAR staff to update GIS layer data used to create working maps in the Appomattox River Trail Master Plan. The updated data show by color; completed trail, route of current focus, route under design, route funded & under design, route with mid-term feasibility, and route with long-term feasibility. While updated data show by symbol; existing trail, proposed trail and conceptual trail. GIS layers were updated to represent the most current state of the trail as of January 2019. This exercise will be repeated in early 2020 to keep the working map in the trail master plan as current as possible as work is continued and more of the Appomattox River Trail is completed.

Image of updated trail map. ([Appendix 7](#))

As previously reported in meetings and trainings, *Collective Impact on the Appomattox River* ([Page 10](#)), Crater PDC staff attended and helped plan coordinate training of the 2nd annual State of the Trail meeting (February 26, 2020) with regional stakeholders. This meeting was extended to about a full day in length based off feedback from the previous year. This year the meeting had more participation and was considered another success with attendees excited about the training. The event was centered around an update on trail efforts and planning, followed by breakout and training sessions centered on the theme of "Collective Impact and Equitable Collaboration." Staff will provide support to FOLAR to continue this effort for future annual meetings.

Resource Documents and Attachment Links. ([Appendix 5](#))

Other notable work which FOLAR was part of a Cypress Tree Planting along river walk section of the ART in Hopewell Virginia. See FOLAR press release attached. ([Appendix 8](#)) For their work with FOLAR and the Riverwalk Hopewell received the 2020 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award. ([Appendix 9](#))

Also A Virginia Commonwealth University student, Mark Glass, completed a Lower Appomattox River Blueway Plan for his masters thesis. FOLAR staff worked with him throughout the process. FOLAR and Crater PDC staff will use this work and develop a working blue way plan to complement the greenway plan and the ART master plan.

Lastly FOLAR has three Smart Scale applications submitted and in for the final round of scoring. These applications for a trail section are:

1. A connection between the Hopewell portion of ART to the Prince George Portion which will be under interstate 295.
2. A bridge crossing the Appomattox River connecting ART in Petersburg Virginia on the southern side of the Appomattox River to completed trail in the City of Colonial Heights on the northern side.
3. A bridge connection at Virginia State University which would serve as the southern connector of the newly planned Fall Line Trail to the ART.

See image and map attachment. ([Appendix 10](#))

Benefits Accrued from Previous VACZM Grants

A culmination of benefits accrued this grant cycle from previous work with CZM Grants. The Lower Appomattox River has a Scenic River Designation which has been updated to an new Appomattox River Interpretive Guide. The Trail Master Plan has been utilized and updated to its current form which has led to work in 2019 developing a first draft of the Lower Appomattox Blueway Plan. Completion of the first stage of the Riverwalk leading into start of construction of Riverwalk phase 2. Holding the 2nd annual State of the Trail meeting which became an all-day event with regional coordination and training efforts.

Additional Environmental Matters

Commission staff participated in several other environmental activities including trail related activities, Chesapeake Bay WIP III Planning, solid waste reporting, the Lower James Roundtable, the Middle James Roundtable, FOLAR trail activities and education/outreach. The Crater PDC attended the following:

- September 30, 2019 - Ashland to Petersburg Trail Study Public Meeting
- October 8, 2019 - Fall Quarterly Coastal PDC Meeting
- October 17, 2019 - Middle James Roundtable Annual Meeting
- October 29, 2019 - Ashland to Petersburg Regional Trails Workshop
- November 13, 2019 - Virginia Outdoors Plan
- November 15, 2019 - Virginia Coastal Policy Center's 7th Annual Conference
- January 6, 2020 - Introduction to NFWF Grant Programs
- January 15, 2020 - Coastal Policy Team Meeting
- January 22, 2020 - Lower James River Roundtable
- January 31, 2020 - Virginia Coastal Master Plan Phase 1 Meeting
- February 26, 2020 - Friends of The Lower Appomattox River 2nd Annual State of the Trail
- March 3, 2020 - Lower James River Roundtable
- March 4, 2020 - FY2021-26 CZM Marine Debris Strategy Meeting
- March 5, 2020 - CZM Coastal Policy Team Coastal Hazards Working Group
- March 17, 2020 - Marine Debris Leadership Team Workshop
- June 9, 2020 - Spring Coastal PDC Meeting
- June 23, 2019 - Lower James River Roundtable
- July 23, 2020 - James River Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting
- September 1, 2020 - Lower James River Roundtable

Appendix

Appendix 1: Sample Review Letter

9/30/2020

Craterpdc.org Mail - Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG IV)



Dennis Morris <dmorris@craterpdc.org>

Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG IV)

1 message

Dennis Morris <dmorris@craterpdc.org>

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 9:24 AM

To: "Prior, Michelle" <michelle.prior@deq.virginia.gov>

Dear Michelle,

The Crater Planning District Commission has reviewed the information regarding the VADEQ Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant Application (CBIG-IV).

The Crater Commission has determined that the proposed application is in full compliance with regional environmental policies and plans.

Thank you for allowing the Crater Commission to comment on this proposed Application.

Denny Morris
Crater Planning District Commission
(804) 861-1666

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=da9524b61d&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-a%3Ar-2177789302854589407&simpl=msg-a%3Ar-36398991...> 1/1

Appendix 2: Agenda Virginia Outdoors Plan 2019 Regional Meeting

VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN

2019 Regional Meeting Agenda

Crater Planning District Commission Conference Room
Wednesday November 13th 12-2pm

Welcome

Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards Update

2019 VOP winners were:

- Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation - Dutch Gap Relic River Trail and Water Access (Gold)
- Roanoke County Parks, Recreation & Tourism - Jae Valley Park (Silver)
- Town of Appalachia - Powell River Trail & Trailhead (Silver)

Applications for the 2020 Awards period ends December 5, 2019

DCR Power Point Presentation

- The 2018 VOP at a glance
- ConserveVirginia – brief overview
- Scenic Resources
- Trails Program
- State Parks in the region – master plan updates
- DCR Grants
- What other agencies are doing to support outdoor recreation
- Priorities that came out of the spring 2019 VOP TAC meeting
- VOP Mapper update

PDC Comments and Feedback on featured projects in the region:

- What is the status of your region's featured projects?
- What are the unmet needs in your region for outdoor recreation and conservation?
- What recreation trends are happening in the region?

Wrap Up, and where do we go from here?

Thank you!

Appendix 3: 2019 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards¹¹

Environment Virginia Symposium, Lexington • March 28, 2019

The Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize successful and innovative efforts that improve Virginia's environment. The annual awards program is run as a partnership between the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Dutch Gap Relic River Trail and Water Access

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN GOLD

The Dutch Gap Relic River Trail and Water Access project includes a 430-foot floating boardwalk and launch dock. It is Chesterfield's first interpretive boardwalk featuring a unique portion of the James River that has been separated from the main channel by elimination of oxbows in the river route. The boardwalk's dock includes a fully accessible canoe and kayak launch. This new water access offers a way to reach non-tidal marsh and, via a wooden portage board walk, access the main James River channel. The marsh has a rich history and is unique to the region for the way it was formed and for the fish and wildlife habitat it supports. A need for water access was documented by both Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan and the 2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey. Prior to the boardwalk, the non-tidal marsh at Dutch Gap was not accessible to the public.



Image 2- Dutch Gap water access boardwalk and fully accessible canoe and kayak launch. Photo Credit Chesterfield Park and Recreation and DCR.

¹¹Source Reference: (DEQ, 2019)

Appendix 4: Meeting Agenda Richmond Crater Environmental Roundtable



Richmond-Crater Environmental Roundtable

Thursday December 12, 2019
Meeting Location: Crater PDC Board Room
1964 Wakefield St., Petersburg, VA 23805

- 10:00 Welcome & Introductions – Sarah Stewart, PlanRVA and Jay Ruffa, Crater PDC
- 10:10 Coastal Section 309 Needs Assessment – Shep Moon, VCZM Program
- 10:40 Update on Waters of the US Rule – Brenda Winn, Virginia DEQ
- 11:00 Local Updates Roundtable
- 11:30 Future Meeting Topics & Next Steps
- 12:00 Adjourn

Appendix 5: Collective Impact on the Appomattox River Resource Documents

Website: <https://folar-va.org/project/collective-impact/>

Meeting Participant List: <https://folar-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/State-of-the-Trail-Attendee-List-2.26.2020.pdf>

Pre-meeting Survey Summary: <https://folar-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/February-2020-Collective-Impact-Survey-Recap-2.pdf>

State of the Trail Update Summary: <https://folar-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Appomattox-River-Trail-Primary-Trail-Summary-Handout-2020-final-1.pdf>

State of the Trail Progress Map: https://folar-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Trail-Progress-Phasing-Map_02-9-2020_FOLAR-final2.pdf

Collective Impact and Equitable Collaboration Presentation Slides: https://folar-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CollectiveImpactEquitable-CollaborationFOLAR-1_IEN_2020_2_25-2p.pdf

Collective Impact Summary – Workgroup Flip Chart Notes: https://folar-va.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/State-of-the-Trail-Meeting-Recap-2.26.2020-002-3_web2.pdf

Appendix 6: Meeting Agenda Environmental Resource Management Task Force

CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Monument Professional Building • 1964 Wakefield Street • Post Office Box 1808 • Petersburg, Virginia 23805
PHONE: (804) 861-1666 • FAX: (804) 732-8972 • E-MAIL: info@craterpdc.org • WEBSITE: www.craterpdc.org
Dennis K. Morris, Executive Director

WIP III Working Group/ Environmental Resource Management Task Force

Crater PDC Conference Room
1964 Wakefield Street
Petersburg, VA 23805

Wednesday, September 16, 2020
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83770143416?pwd=Z3MrS2lCVnN2UkF0d3FOcVJjVHFSdz09>

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 837 7014 3416

Passcode: 407741

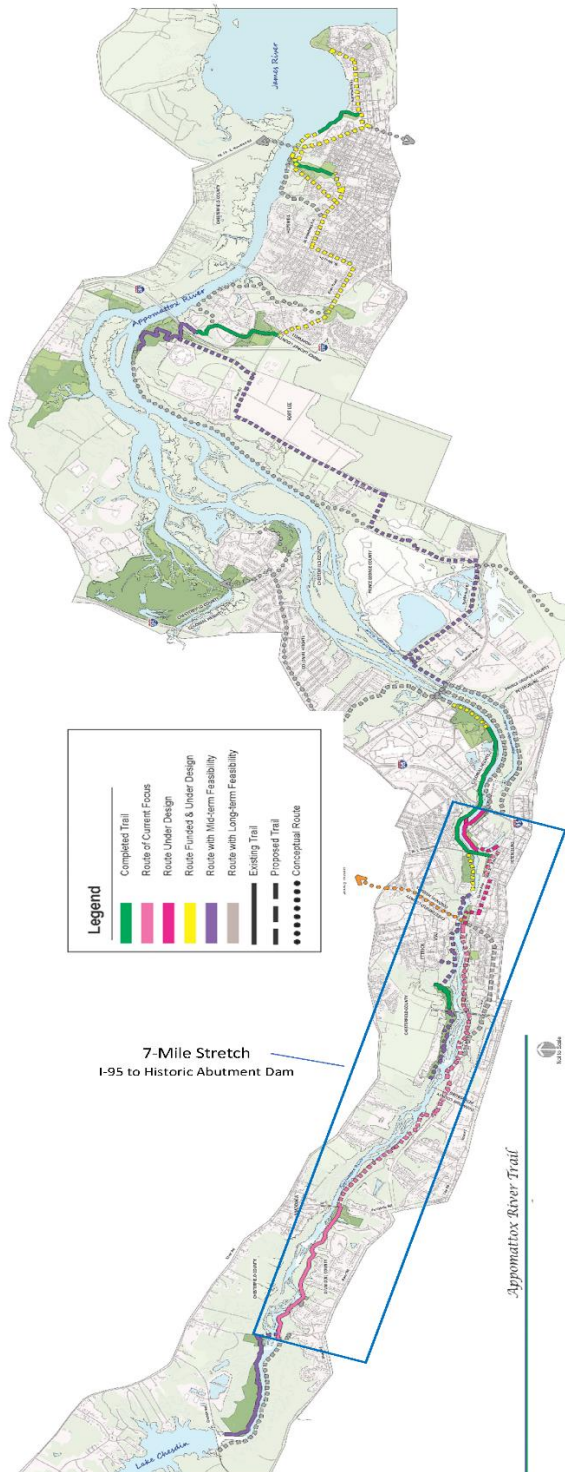
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. CZM Topics/Environmental Resource Management Task Force
 - a. **Changes in Virginia Environmental Legislation.** Mary-Carson Stiff & Ross Weaver from Wetlands Watch.
 - b. FOLAR / news and updates about ART
 - c. End of 2019-2020 Grant Sept. 30, 2020
 - d. October 1, 2020 Start of 3 year CZM Resilience Project
3. WIP Topics/ 2020 Chesapeake Bay Watershed PDC Locality Implementation Program
 - a. **Hopewell NFWF Grant Acceptance, Outfall & Gully Stabilization Projects(OGSP's) Update** Joe Battiatia, P.E. Stormwater Program Manager City of Hopewell
 - b. **Next Year's Scop of work**
 - c. WIP Status
 - d. Stream Clean ups, March event was canceled (COVID), Second Scheduled through JRAC For September 12, 2020 9AM-1-PM
4. News and Events
 - a. Virginia Coastal Policy Center Fall Webinars (these are taking place of their fall conference)
 - i. September 16, 2020 10-11:30 a.m. The Challenge of Financing Resiliency
 - ii. October 21, 2020 10-Noon Resilience in Virginia: Outlook 2021
 - iii. November 18 10-11:30 a.m. Liability in the Face of a Changing Climate
 - iv. Registration link:
<https://law.wm.edu/academics/programs/jd/electives/clinics/vacoastal/conferences/index.php>
 - b. Quarterly Coastal PDC Meeting (Virginia CZM) Thursday September 17, 2020
 - c. Virginia Coastal Policy Team Meeting Wednesday September 23, 2020 from 10 a.m. -2 p.m.
 - d. Hazard Mitigation Update Starting RFP is out and closes October 2, 2020

County of Charles City • County of Chesterfield • City of Colonial Heights • County of Dinwiddie • City of Emporia
County of Greenville • City of Hopewell • City of Petersburg • County of Prince George • County of Surry • County of Sussex

Appendix 7: Appomattox River Trail and Progress Activity



Appomattox River Trail Progress & Activity



City of Hopewell – 5.5 miles from City Point National Park to I-295 bridge complete by 2020

- Riverwalk
 - Phase 1 Funding from General Assembly, FOLAR, city of Hopewell Complete, 0.3 miles
 - Phase 2 Funding DCR RTP, Funded, Under design and readying for bid in June
 - TrafX Counter in-place collecting metrics
- TAP Funded bike/ped improvements along trail routes:
 - Phase I of new bike lanes (Design & Construction FY20)
 - Riverside Ave, N 21st St, W. Broadway and Mesa Dr; 1.6 miles
 - Phase II of new bike lanes (Design & Construction FY21)
 - Appomattox St to Cedar Ln to Pecan Ave; 0.85 miles
- Riverside Stormwater Greenway Complete
 - Funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Virginia DEQ and city of Hopewell; 0.2 miles

Prince George County – 6.3 miles

- On road section, much like Capital Trail - Working to incorporate into Comp Plan; 3.5 miles
- Support from VDOT to cross under I-295 with permit from local district
- Feasibility Study to Connect Appomattox River Trail to Virginia Capital Trail – VDOT/CPDC Complete, Recommends bridge replacement, Roadway shuttle in short-term
- TrafX counter in-place collecting metrics at ARRP Trailhead

City of Colonial Heights – 2-miles to be complete by 2022

- To be completed by 2022 – CMAQ and TAP
 - Phase IV extend trail west approximately 2,100' from Boulevard Bridge
 - Phase V extend east approximately 2,150' from Roslyn Park to Jennick Rd
- Potential bridge connection to Pocahontas Island using existing historic structures
- TrafX counter in-place collecting metrics at Roslyn Park Trailhead

City of Petersburg – 7 miles

- VDOT Revenue Sharing/Cameron – Appomattox River Trail Way Project contract under development; 0.25 miles
- VDOT Ashland to Petersburg Trail Study, Complete
- 2 miles of trail under engineering/design phase; Privately funded by Cameron, FOLAR managing
 - Support from Virginia Outdoors Foundation for land acquisition
- .33 miles W. of University Blvd, Funded by Cameron/Parsons, Construction to be completed in 2020
- TrafX counter in-place collecting metrics at Univ. Blvd

Dinwiddie County – 3 miles

- Advance ROW work with private partners to fill in gaps and connect to Petersburg
- TrafX counter in-place collecting metrics at Ferndale Park/Canal Trail

Chesterfield County – 3 miles

- Ettrick VSU trailhead and trail complete; 0.3 miles
- Funding strategy for western bridge to Dinwiddie as a regional public/private partnership; as well as ROW/land acquisition (Future CIP)
- TrafX trail counters in place at several trail locations
- VSU Appomattox Overlook and efforts toward more bike/ped friendly campus – and community connections

VA Department of Health - Public Health Partnership

- Wayfinding Signage funding
- TrafX counters purchase
- CDC High Obesity Prevention grant team partner

FOLAR February 2020

Appendix 8: FOLAR organizes tree planting along the Appomattox River in Hopewell¹²

Hopewell, VA – May 20, 2020. The weather was perfect – sunny, clear, and cool, last week when the Hopewell Recreation and Parks staff assembled to tackle a major environmental stewardship project along the Appomattox River shoreline near the Hopewell Riverwalk at City Park.



Image 3- Newly planted Bald cypress tree beautifies the Hopewell Riverwalk shoreline. Photo by: Hopewell Recreation and Parks

Through a grant awarded to the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) by Virginia American Water through their Environmental Grant Program, a number of young bald cypress trees were carefully planted by the Hopewell Recreation and Parks staff.

“Virginia American Water is committed to being a steward of the environment and we’re proud to support the efforts of local organizations that share our vision,” said Barry Suits, president of Virginia American Water. “We applaud the work by FOLAR and Hopewell Recreation and Parks to complete this project for today’s Hopewell residents and for generations to come.”

¹² Source Reference: (Friends of the Lowar Appomattox, 2020)

FOLAR was awarded the grant prior to the current public health crisis and the challenges it brought on. "Connecting partners across jurisdictions, public agencies, businesses, and other nonprofit organizations is one of the important roles FOLAR serves in our region as we work to advance our mission to protect the river for all to enjoy," said Wendy Austin, Executive Director of FOLAR. "We are thrilled that the project is completed and look forward to more opportunities to work together."

The timing of the planting was coordinated with the incoming tide providing a good natural watering for the trees. The trees were purchased from a local nursery helping to support local business. In addition to improving the river environment, the trees also help increase the natural beauty along the shoreline, which can be viewed from the Hopewell Riverwalk, one of the city's major recreational destinations. "We enjoy a strong partnership with both charitable organizations and were happy to help make this project a reality," said Aaron Reidmiller, the Director of Hopewell Recreation and Parks.

The bald cypress is native to Virginia and can grow to over 100 feet tall and 6 feet wide. The trees thrive in standing water, making them perfect for the shoreline environment. They provide much needed habitat for wildlife and they help control erosion and filter runoff. Through the years the bald cypress has been substantially harvested for its rot-resistant wood, but they are a slow growing species. This has resulted in many fewer of the trees along the river.

Appendix 9: Hopewell Receives Environmental Excellence Award¹³

The [2020 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards](#) were announced on [August 21, 2020 by webinar](#). The awards recognized the significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in four categories: sustainability, environmental project, land conservation, and implementation of the Virginia Outdoors Plan. The awards are given to businesses and industrial facilities, not-for-profit organizations, and government agencies. FOLAR is so proud to partner with the City staff and many donors who made the first phase of the [Hopewell Riverwalk](#) so successful. We continue to work together to extend the Riverwalk so that it connects to the Hopewell Marina and the developing [25-mile Appomattox River Trail](#).



Image 4- Hopewell Riverwalk Section. Photo by: Hopewell Recreation and Parks

¹³ Source Reference: (Friends of the Lower Appomattox, 2020)

Appendix 10: Three ART VDOT Smart Scale Project Applications Successfully Submitted

3 ART VDOT Smart Scale Project Applications Successfully Submitted

Huge regional group effort – With potential of greater return.

Appomattox River Trail from Squaw Alley
to I-95 - \$8.8 million; Petersburg
submittal

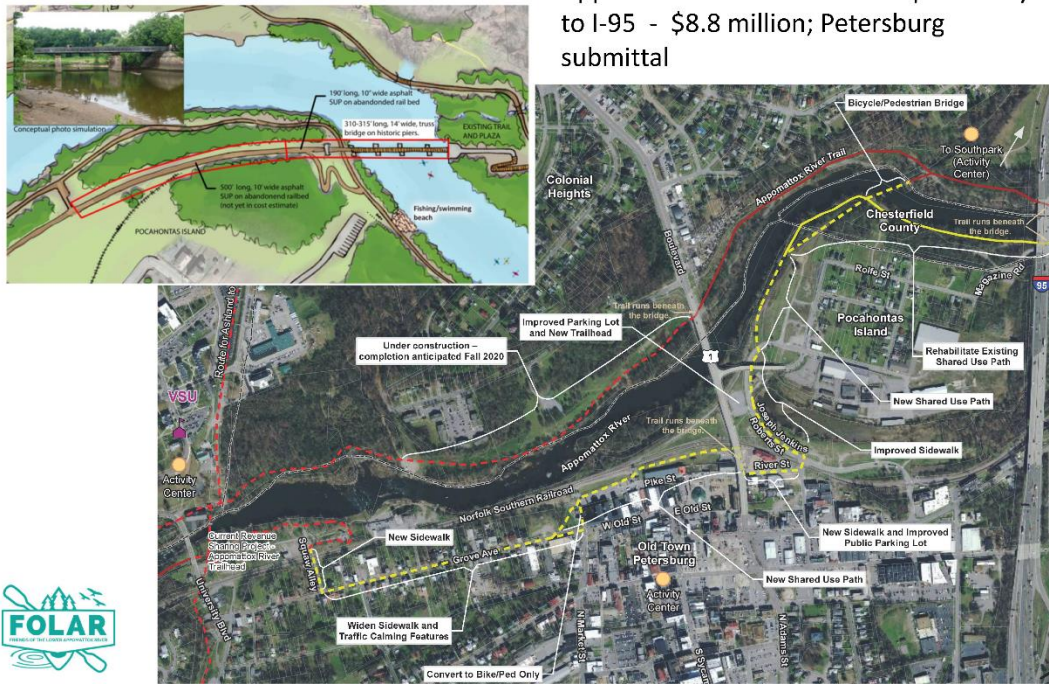


Image 5- Smart Scale Project Appomattox River Trail section from Squall Alley to I -95.

3 ART VDOT Smart Scale Applications Successfully Submitted
 Ashland-to-Petersburg Trail, River Rd through VSU to Patton Park &
 Appomattox River Trail - \$13.3 million; Tri-Cities MPO submittal

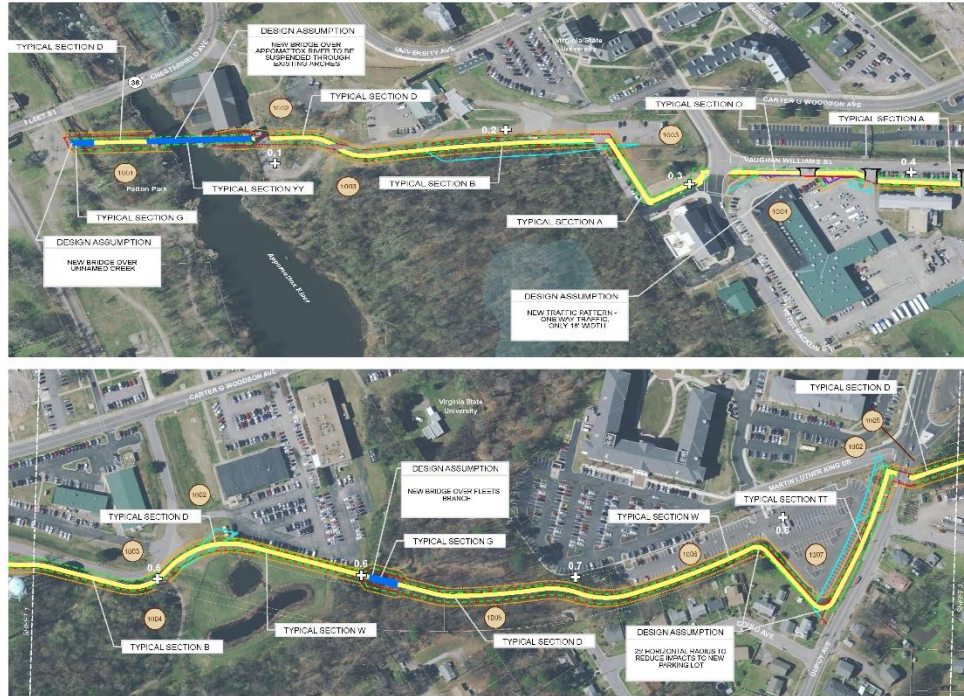


Image 6- Smart Scale Project Application Trail and Bridge connection at VSU ART o Fall Line Trail.

3 ART VDOT Smart Scale Applications Successfully Submitted

Appomattox River Trail Cameron's Landing Connector - \$1.2 million; Hopewell submittal

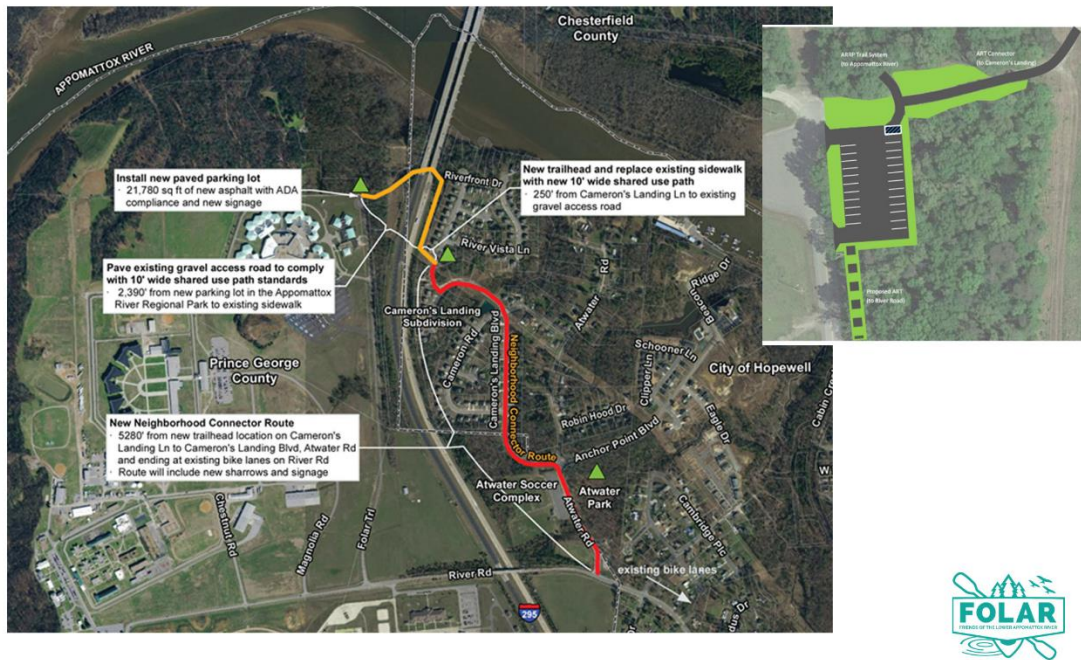


Image 7- Smart Scale Project Application Connector under I 295 from Hopewell to Prince George County.

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